

Central Indiana

April 2017

Climate Summary

3rd Warmest on record at Indianapolis

24th Wettest on record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

April began cooler than normal through the first week or so, highlighted by highs unable to get out of the 40s for many areas on the 6th in the wake of a strong cold frontal passage. Lows were commonly in the 30s and 40s with most locations across central Indiana experiencing their coldest morning of the month on the 8th near or just below the freezing mark.

Temperatures began a steady recovery on the 9th and remained above normal for most of the following two weeks as most days saw highs in the 70s and 80s. A brief cooldown on the 21st and 22nd in the wake of another strong cold front was followed by yet another extended period of above normal warmth that lasted largely through the end of the month. The warmest day of April came for most locations on the afternoon of the 26th as highs surged into the middle 80s. The placement of a warm front across the region during the last few days of April led to stark difference in temperatures from north to south across central Indiana. On the 28th and 29th for example, highs struggled to rise out of the 50s over northern portions of central Indiana while temperatures rose to near 80 over far southern portions of the area.

Average temperatures for the month ranged from 55° to 60° across central Indiana, producing one of the warmer Aprils on record for many. At Indianapolis, the monthly average temperatures of 59.3°F made it the 3rd warmest April on record, surpassed only by April 1896 and April 2010. Highs exceeded 80° on 4 days in April but more impressively, highs were at or above 70° on 17 days throughout the month, the most 70°+ days in April in 7 years and only the 3rd April since 2000 with at least that many 70°+ days.

Site	April 2017 Avg Temp	April 2017 Difference from Normal	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
Indianapolis	59.3	+6.3	83 on 26	33 on 8
Lafayette	55.9	+4.0	82 on 26	30 on 8
Muncie	58.1	+6.7	86 on 26	31 on 8
Terre Haute	58.7	+5.4	82 on 26	30 on 8
Bloomington	59.8	+6.2	85 on 26	30 on 8
Shelbyville	60.7	+7.9	86 on 26	31 on 8
Indy – Eagle Crk.	59.3	+6.2	84 on 26	33 on 8

At Indianapolis, there were 22 days with above normal average temperatures, 6 days with below normal average temperatures and 2 days with normal average temperatures.

April 2017 was the 3rd warmest in the Indianapolis area since 1871.

Precipitation

April monthly precipitation was above normal for nearly all of Indiana. A major rain event from late on the 28th through early May 1 provided many areas in central and southern Indiana with as much or more rainfall as received earlier in April.

Monthly totals through the 27th ranged from a half of inch in east central Indiana to slightly over 5 inches in west central Indiana. Additional rainfall of 2 to over 9 inches during the last 3 days of April pushed monthly totals to 2.5 inches in extreme northern Indiana to over 13 inches in extreme southwest Indiana. Totals in central Indiana ranged from 3 to over 9 inches. Much of the state received 4 to 8 inches for April. Rainfall at the end of April erased abnormally dry conditions that had persisted since the end of March in portions of southwest Indiana.

Early in April rainfall of up to 2 inches in northern Indiana from late on the 4th through the late morning of the 6th caused lowland flooding in portions of north central Indiana and along the Wabash River in western Indiana. Rainfall at the end of April caused widespread flooding to develop in central and southern Indiana by May 1st. This flooding is expected to be the highest for much of the area since late December 2015 and early January 2016.

Site	April 2017 Precipitation	April 2017 Difference from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
Indianapolis	5.60	+1.79	1.99 on 29	5 days 22-26
Lafayette (*)	4.60	+1.06	1.50 on 5	5 days 21-25

Muncie	5.46	+1.79	2.04 on 29	6 days 21-26
Terre Haute	8.25	+4.10	2.36 on 29	5 days 11-15
Bloomington	6.13	+1.43	1.54 on 29	5 days 22-26
Shelbyville	3.58	-0.74	1.40 on 29	5 days 22-26
Indy – Eagle Crk.	5.09	+1.19	1.94 on 29	4 days 22-25

April 2017 was the 24th wettest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.
 (*) – Lafayette precipitation missing for 4/26 and 4/27.

Severe Weather

April was a busy month for severe weather across central Indiana. Severe weather over the southern half of central Indiana ahead of a cold front on the afternoon of the 5th produced large hail, damaging winds and an EF1 tornado over Daviess County. Thunderstorms producing large hail impacted parts of central Indiana in two waves on the 10th, during the morning and again during the afternoon and evening. There were several occurrences of golf ball size hail across Tippecanoe County during the morning. Scattered severe storms again impacted parts of central Indiana with damaging winds and large hail during the late afternoon and evening of April 20th. An EF1 tornado touched down near Millhousen in southern Decatur County during the evening.

Severe thunderstorms impacted mainly the northwest half of central Indiana during the evening hours. Golf ball size hail occurred in both Kokomo and Lebanon, and a 73 mph gust was measured near Sharpsville in Tipton County. The presence of a warm front in the region brought several rounds of thunderstorms from the 28th through the 30th with severe weather occurring during the evenings of the 28th and 29th. An intense line of storms impacted areas from Bloomington east through Columbus and southern Decatur County on the evening of the 28th. The most extensive damage occurred from the east side of Columbus east into southern Decatur County with straight line winds estimated at 90 to 100 mph. Storms on the 29th produced large hail over the northern Wabash Valley.

For information on severe weather in other areas during April, visit the Storm Prediction Center “Severe Weather Event Summaries” website at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/online/>.

Miscellaneous

The maximum wind gust at Indianapolis International Airport was 48 mph out of the northwest on the 6th. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 12 days during the month. Thunder was reported on 11 days during the month.

May 2017 Outlook

The official outlook for May 2017 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates a greater chance for below normal temperatures. At Indianapolis, the average temperature for the month is 62.7 degrees. There is also an equal chance for above, near or below normal precipitation for central Indiana. The average precipitation for May at Indianapolis is 5.05”.

Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.